

DOH Roadside Spring – Water Distribution System

On November 25, the Village received formal correspondence from the NYS Department of Health (Herkimer District Office) regarding a roadside spring located along NYS Route 29 on Village-owned property in Fulton County.

DOH classified the spring as a public health liability due to unmonitored access and lack of treatment. Despite an existing “Not Approved for Public Consumption” sign, DOH has directed the Village to:

1. Remove the overflow pipe that extends beyond the protective fencing.
2. Post “No Trespassing” signs on the property.
3. Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the posting.

These directives are being treated as compliance matters, not recommendations, due to potential exposure to contaminants including bacteria, viruses, and chemicals. DOH provided supplemental materials emphasizing the health risks associated with untreated springs.

After we received the notification from NYSDOH, we sent a sample of the spring water to our state accredited lab to get our own findings. The water tested positive for e-coli and coliform. As the spring is located on village property, the village could be held liable if anyone were to get sick from consuming this water. Therefore, we **MUST** comply with the NYSDOH in this matter. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



**Department
of Health**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Sent via Email Only

November 25, 2025

Mayor Mary Puznowski
Village of Dolgeville
41 N. Main Street
Dolgeville, NY 13329
mayorpuznowski@villageofdolgeville.gov

RE: Roadside Spring
NYS Route 29 Fulton County
Dolgeville (V), Herkimer County

Dear Mayor Mary Puznowski:

This office has been made aware of a roadside spring on Village-owned property located along NYS Route 29 east of the Village in Fulton County. The site is currently protected by a fence to limit access to the property. However, there is an overflow pipe from the spring extending beyond the fence out to a catchment area along the road right of way that easily allows public access to the spring water. Roadside springs are not an acceptable source of drinking water because the water source and overflow pipe are not adequately protected from contamination and are susceptible to chemicals, bacteria, viruses and parasites. Although there is a warning sign stating, "Water Not Approved for Public Consumption", the following additional measures should be taken:

- Post the property with "No Trespassing" signs and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- Remove the pipe extending beyond the fence to eliminate accessibility/availability to the public.

Additional information is outlined on the enclosed pamphlet "Don't Drink from Roadside Springs" and available at the New York State Department of Health website at:
<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/springs.htm>

Please feel free to contact this office at 315-866-6879 or NYSDOH.Herkimer@health.ny.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Nowalk, P.E.
Professional Engineer 1

Enc.

ec: Kathryn Morse – NYSDOH HDO
Ryan Hulchanski – NYSDOH HDO

Ask for help! Contact your local health department at health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts if your home or workplace is not served by a public water system or an on-site drilled well. If there are no other water supply sources that can be used, local health department staff can discuss treatment and other possible water sources for drinking and cooking.

WARNING!

Do Not Drink Water from Springs



Water from springs can contain chemicals, bacteria, viruses or parasites that could make you sick.

Contact your local health department to learn more

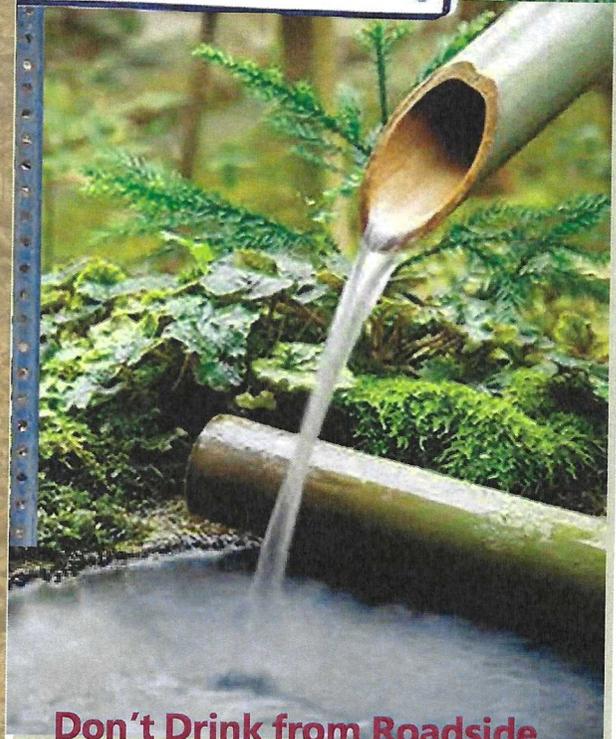
health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts

Brochure produced under a CDC/EHS-Net cooperative agreement

Find Out More
about your drinking water
health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/

6506 New York State Department of Health 4/14

DOES NOT GUARANTEE
AND SHALL NOT BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
QUALITY OF WATER
AT THIS SPRING



Don't Drink from Roadside Springs and Surface Waters

- Roadside springs can contain bacteria and other substances that can make you sick.
- Whenever possible, people should drink from a regulated public water supply system or a properly installed and maintained private well.
- Contact your Local Health Department (health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts) to learn about other options for your drinking water.

That spring water might not be as safe as you think!

Some communities have a local spring that residents use to collect water for drinking, cooking and other household purposes. Springs occur where underground water comes out near the ground surface. Although the water may look pure and clean, it might not be. Often it is unknown what the source of the water is, or where it has traveled before being collected. A spring might flow above ground, allowing animal waste or chemicals to run into the water.

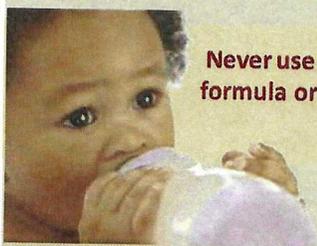
Why should I stop drinking spring or untreated surface water?

By the time the spring reaches a collection point, it could have chemicals, bacteria, parasites and viruses in it that might make people sick. Waterborne organisms (*Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and *E. coli*) can cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Spring water could also contain chemicals that can cause long-term health effects, such as kidney and liver damage, nervous system disorders and birth defects. The health effects of drinking contaminated water can be more severe, even life threatening, for babies, children, the elderly and immune-compromised individuals.



Do you really want to drink that water?

The New York State Health Department recommends that no one should use roadside springs and other uncontrolled, untreated water sources for drinking water. Roadside springs are generally not protected from contamination and are not routinely tested. Instead, drink water from either a regulated public water system that is required to treat, disinfect and monitor its water on a regular basis, or from a properly installed and maintained drinking water supply well. New York State Health Department certified bottled water is another alternative.



Never use water from a roadside spring or an untreated surface water to prepare baby formula or nutritional supplements for elderly or immune-compromised individuals.